

Sounding the Trumpet

July - September 2010



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Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
(Formerly The Evangelical Preachers Association, Est. 1896)

This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines.

Watchdog or Lapdog?

"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter" (Isaiah 56:10-11).

God's messengers are given various titles in Scripture: ministers, prophets, apostles, teachers and watchmen to name a few. Those who are spiritually responsible for a group of people are ordained to watch over them. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). He watches for danger, especially that coming from heretical teachings and practices, but also the danger posed by ungodly people pretending to be believers. It is his duty to sound the alarm and keep out the "wolves in sheep's clothing". "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

Watchdogs

In keeping with the analogy of dogs, we can see that the watchman can be called a watchdog whose duty is to bark loudly to warn off intruders and alert the owner. Thieves are on the lookout for property to steal. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10). But what good is the watchdog if he allows himself to be petted by the robbers? Who would use a dog that could not bark? A watchdog must be able to detect the slightest noise rather than sleeping or chasing its tail. Its vision must be perfect, for who would use a blind dog?

The watchmen of God's people had become lazy, dumb, and sleepy, and as a result the false prophets [wild beasts] had the freedom to roam the land without hindrance and capture the flock. "All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest" (Isaiah 56:9). The same can be said of the situation the church finds itself in this era. The ministers of the Gospel have become so politically correct that they no longer stand for the truth. The church is swamped by false teaching because pastors do not want to appear to be judgemental towards wayward brethren. Immorality and ungodliness have increased in our churches only because the preacher has lost his voice and vision.

A watchdog is only friends with its owner and those it is familiar with, but the enemy is never welcome. If a watchdog lets down its guard because the intruder gives it choice morsels, then he will be silent and the property is easy prey. Preachers have allowed themselves to be petted by the world through social and humanitarian concerns while the truth has been sidelined. The hand that feeds the watchdog tasty food also muzzles and chains it. Now we find ministers in a corner too afraid even to whimper, and how the thief loves that!

Lapdogs

There is robbery on a mass scale going on under our noses, but few appear to notice. False doctrines not only come from the obvious sources today, but are delivered to the people via the pulpit of evangelical churches. We need watchmen who will protest against falsehood wherever it is preached. "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself" (Titus 3:10-11). The sad fact is that our churches no longer notice a false prophet because they have not bothered to study God's word, and the preacher has become a lapdog who stands for nothing instead of a watchdog who guards the flock.

Lapdogs will never be good watchdogs because they are petted instead of trained. Many preachers today want to be poster boys rather than prophets of God. They care not for the truth because they are too concerned about their own comforts. A preacher who does not know the truth cannot effectively guide others in Christ. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31).

The lapdog preacher will offer countless excuses for the conditions found in the church, but will not have any answer for them. They want to have peace and harmony while they preach inoffensive love-gospel. They find it easier to associate with spiritually destitute teachers than to fellowship with believers who want to live holy and righteously. They will not open their mouths against the carnality and

worldliness in the church because they might lose the pastorate and therefore their income. They are truly dumb dogs. Jeremiah 6:12-17 speaks clearly about such men: “for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.”

Conclusion

Those who are meant to be watchmen [watchdogs] look the other way while the church is being ravaged by enemies of the Gospel. They are too afraid to warn others lest they are beaten back and labelled as judgemental. They think that keeping quiet secures their job, but in truth they are no longer in the pay of God. They have become fearful wrecks that are no use to anyone.

Thank God for those watchmen who are alert to all the dangers. They are awake and active in preaching the word of God without compromise. “For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth” (Isaiah 62:1). It is certain that we need preachers who will not be silent or silenced. Let the world call them fanatics and extremists, but let them always be watchmen for the Lord.

Gary J. Hall

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Who will be saved?

Matthew 7:14 “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:23 “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you.” John 3:3 “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The nominal

This is the type of person, when asked which religion they belong to, ticks the Christian box on a questionnaire, without really understanding what they have done. There may even be some vague belief in God, but that's as far as it goes. The Bible has never or rarely been read. The pleasures of this world are too much to give up. Church events attended are; Christmas, weddings and funerals. The sad thing about this nominal belief, is that there is no relationship with Jesus. There is no real understanding of sin, the punishment of sin, or the cross. There is a basic belief that we are fairly good people on the whole, and when

we die Heaven awaits. This person denies the power of Christ and the need for repentance. The nominal sees no need for the Lord Jesus as personal Saviour and 'LORD' of their lives.

But wait, haven't we all been there at some point in our lives? Didn't we once have this type of belief? I'm certain that I did before I met with the Lord! For the nominal, yes, there is still hope. That from this apathetic approach to God, the work of the spirit and the preaching of the word would convict and bring conversion.

The 'Religious' Church-member

This person has an outward appearance of respectability and faith. They are busy within the life of the church. They could be clergy, leaders, preachers or congregation members for many years. They may even attend the prayer meeting and Bible study nights. They are helpful and caring to others, but the person of Jesus Christ is a stranger to them. The church is just a social meeting place for them. A place where coffee mornings, jumble sales and committee meetings seem to take up so much time and importance. A place to meet friends, have a chat, (I'm not saying that this is altogether wrong, we all need good fellowship, but this person misses the main point of church), thanksgiving, praise, worship and the preaching of the word. To come and meet with the living God, and with fellow-believers. A religious church member needs to repent and turn to Christ.

The re-born believer

The born again Christian knows the state of the human heart (Jeremiah 17:9). They have met with the Lord and had a real conversion in their lives. They know that they still struggle and battle with their human sinful nature. They know that this battle will be constant and a daily struggle, sometimes relentless. They realize that they will sometimes make mistakes, but always confess and ask forgiveness from God. These people have an urgency to walk with God. They have rejected the world and its pleasures of sin that last just for a season (Hebrews 11:25). They know that they have been born again because they have died to their old self. The born again believer watches and waits, they pray and fast, they warn and rebuke. They are not really interested what other men think of them, it's more important what God thinks of them. These type of people walk constantly in spiritual warfare. Being loved by God, but often times hated by the world. In need of the full armour of God (Ephesians 6) against Satan, the 'Accuser' of the brethren (Rev12:10). This kind of believer has what it takes to be an 'overcomer.' They are filled with the Spirit and filled with hope.

This is the type of believer that wants to worship in spirit and in truth, that challenges and even sometimes upsets people when they confront them with the truth. A 'salty' Christian that flavours, preserves and also irritates at times.

There is of course, another type of person in the world. This type of person denies Christianity altogether. Whether it is atheism, humanism or one of the many false religions of the world. But God only sees two types of people, those who are saved and those who are un-saved, that's what it all amounts to. He doesn't want any to perish but all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). The SAVED are the born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus says that you must be born again.

John 3:7 'Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.'

Richard Hardy

The Preacher's Charge to a Preacher

2 Timothy 4:1-8

The greatest preacher, apart from Jesus, wrote these words to the young preacher, and teacher, Timothy. This young man had known the Scriptures from a very early age, "from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim 3:15 Paul is laying before him the responsibilities of a preacher. Paul is one preacher who took the responsibility seriously for he said "yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Cor.9:16. For this reason he could give these instructions to this young preacher.

The Witnesses

"I charge thee before God". The charge he is giving is to preach the word and he wants Timothy to know that the instruction he is giving is in the hearing of the great and sovereign God of the universe. The one who hears and sees everything and knows our thoughts and actions, whose desire is, for all men be saved. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim. 2:4. Now Paul reminds Timothy that the one who will ultimately judge his ministry is the Lord. "and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom." This is the same one who gave His disciples the command. "...he said unto them, Go ye to all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. So we need to recognise that it is the pleasure of God and His Son that the gospel should be preached to all peoples in the World. The purpose is that they will come to a knowledge of the truth of God's Word through gospel preaching. "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." 1 Cor.1:21. It is a serious thought that He who gave the original command to preach the gospel will be the One who will evaluate if it has been done in the approved manner.

The Word

"Preach the word." This is the charge to the preacher, to sound forth the Word. ".... the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25 It is not the preacher's views and concepts that are to be proclaimed but the real simple message as found only in the word of God, remembering the one who always hears. Men and women can only come to a knowledge of the truth when the truth of the Word of God is declared. The preaching must be the complete doctrine of the sinfulness of men, Christ's sacrificial work at Calvary, the glorious resurrection and ascension, with the direct challenge to the hearers to avail themselves of this wonderful salvation through repentance for sin and faith in the living Lord. 1 Cor.15:1-4. The preacher must be sure not to forget that "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17. "be instant in season, out of season." The genuine preacher will be diligent and

persistent in the work of preaching the gospel and he will be constantly be either praying, preparing, or proclaiming it. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15. The gift which God has given by His Spirit must be employed at every opportunity to present God's Word whether on the pulpit, pavement, or in private because it is part of his personality. He will not only take opportunity but make opportunity to share the word of truth." from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad" 1Thess. 1:8.

The preacher must be mindful that the seed must be sown on all grounds and that it is God who will graciously give the increase. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." Ecl.11:6.

The Way

"Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." The message is one of reprove for unbelief and neglect of the revelation of God in the things that are seen. There must also be rebuke sometimes gently and sometimes severely for sinful ways and deeds and a reminder of the consequences of rejection.. This should be followed by exhortation to repent and believe the good news and become a follower of Jesus Christ. The proclaiming must be done with patience and kindness not forgetting we were once in darkness. This must be followed by teaching the things our Lord requires us to teach. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" Human beings are unacquainted with Divine wisdom, and this must be taught by those who have been sent to deliver the Word. However only those who have been thoroughly instructed in whatsoever Christ has commanded are fully able to teach new believers.

There must be an awareness that only what is revealed in the Word of God should be taught, and not the traditions of men. Only sound scriptural teaching will enable disciples to develop into useful members of the local and universal church. Conversely, unscriptural teaching will result in weak and unfruitful members of the church.

The Warning

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;" The reason for the charge to be given was that the preacher might be aware that there will be those who will not believe and teach the Word. When people turn their ears away from the truth they do not have to measure up to the principles of living for Christ. Of course, when the truth is rejected, then all they have to turn to believing is stories and myths.

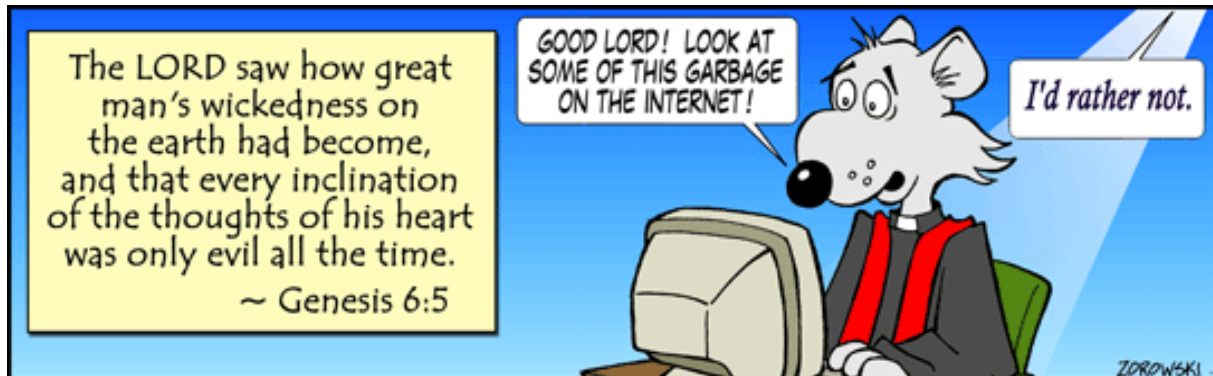
If men turn away from the One who speaks from heaven through the Word of truth then there is no way they can escape judgement. Heb. 12:25. However Paul says to those who faithfully teach the Word "we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." 2 Cor. 2:17.

It is not a new occurrence that some will not speak the truth regarding God's person and purpose as we can observe in the three friends of Job who were admonished by God for not telling it as it is. "the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the

thing that is right." Job 42:10. Those declaring the scripture truth need to be conscious of the profound responsibility they have to those to whom the message is directed and to the One who gave us His Word to proclaim.

David Moody

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Update

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Our Purpose and Position

The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries sounds the trumpet of truth and flies high the banner of love. Together we rejoice in the leading and guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is the reason for FEM's existence and continuing ministry.

The Fellowship is soundly based on the Holy Bible which is our sole reference for matters of life and conduct. We are more than politically correct, for we seek to be Biblically correct by simple straightforward obedience to our Saviour and Lord. We are not Bible bashers we are Bible believers. We are not Bible manipulators or mutilators we are Bible preachers, teachers, and witnesses, seeking to win souls, in obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Motive and Mission

It remains exactly the same as in 1896 yet we are now also using methods of outreach as modern as the times and moment we are living in.

Our premier website, www.femonline.co.uk, is concise and clear, giving information covering all aspects of our worldwide ministry. It is updated weekly with audio sermons and written messages from ministers, and pastors and members of FEM. It is an attractive and dedicated site. Please help to make it known to Christians and friends.

Other links to the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries website well worth a visit are:

www.gods-honest-truth.com
www.LWBC.co.uk
<http://coloursofthetrinity.2ya.com>
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General enquiries and correspondence from members and friends to are welcome at our:

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We have been pleased to receive enquiries regarding the Evangelistic Academy, financial gifts, applications for Ministerial Credentials with FEM.

If you have information, articles, or prayer request that you would like to be included in a future edition of the UPDATE, Please contact Frank Rowley using the address above or at frankrowley@femoline.co.uk.

To all concerned be assured of our prayers for you as together we seek to serve the Lord in the glorious saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.